

321 CMR: DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE.

321 CMR 3.00: HUNTING.

**3.02: HUNTING, PARTICULAR GAME.**

(6) Hunting of Pheasants, Quail, and Ruffed Grouse. In accordance with the authority vested in me by M.G.L. c. 131, § 5, I hereby declare an annual open seasons for the hunting of pheasants, bobwhite quail, and ruffed grouse, subject to the following: ~~rules and regulations~~

~~(a) the dates and areas (zones) of the open seasons on pheasants, bobwhite quail, and ruffed grouse shall be:~~

~~—1. on cock pheasants from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30, both dates inclusive, in all counties of the Commonwealth;~~

~~—2. on hen pheasants from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30, both dates inclusive, in all counties and portions of counties except in Dukes and Nantucket counties and in the Town of Hull in Plymouth county, and except eastward of a line running from the New Hampshire border southerly on Route I-95 to the junction with Route I-495, southerly on Rt. I-495 to the junction with Route 95, northerly on Rt. 95 to the junction with Routes I-93/128, easterly on Rts. I-93/128 to the junction with Route 3, southerly on Rt. 3 to the junction with Route 228, and northerly on Rt. 228 to the Hull town line; and except that on any wildlife management areas which are stocked with pheasant or quail as listed in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(k) and which are eastward of the boundary line delineated by 321 CMR 3.02(6)(a)2, the taking of both cock and hen pheasants shall be lawful;~~

~~—3. on bobwhite quail from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30, both dates inclusive, in Bristol, Plymouth, Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket counties only;~~

~~—4. on ruffed grouse from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30, both dates inclusive, in all counties of the Commonwealth;~~

(a) Definitions. For the purposes of 321 CMR 3.02(6), the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

Shotgun Deer Season means that season when it is lawful to hunt deer with a shotgun as provided for in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(b)3.

Zone or Zones means the Massachusetts wildlife management zones as described in 321 CMR 3.02(4)(o).

(b) Open Seasons and Zones.

1. Cock pheasants may be hunted throughout Massachusetts from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30;

2. Hen pheasants may be hunted from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30 in Zones 01 through 12, except in the Town of Hull in Plymouth County, and except eastward of a line running from the New Hampshire border southerly on Route I-95 to the junction with Route I-495, southerly on Rt. I-495 to the junction with Route 95, northerly on Rt. 95 to the junction with Routes I-93/128, easterly on Rts. I-93/128 to the junction with Route 3, southerly on Rt. 3 to the junction with Route 228, and northerly on Rt. 228 to the Hull town line; provided, that on any wildlife management areas which are stocked with pheasant or quail as listed in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n) and which are eastward of the boundary line delineated by 321 CMR 3.02(6)(b)2, the taking of both cock and hen pheasants is lawful;

3. Ruffed grouse may be hunted throughout Massachusetts from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30;

4. Bobwhite quail may be hunted in Zones 11 through 14 from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to November 30.

~~and, except that there will be no open season during the deer season when shotguns are legal for~~

~~hunting deer; and except for the purpose of a training program for~~

(c) Season Closure. Notwithstanding the provisions of 321 CMR 3.02(6)(b), there shall be no open season for the hunting or possession of cock or hen pheasant, ruffed grouse, or bobwhite quail during the shotgun deer season.

(d) Youth Hunter Training Program. Minors between the ages of 15 and 17, who qualify and are properly enrolled with the Director ~~for participation~~ may participate in a training program in the hunting of upland game birds on the first six Saturdays preceding the 20th of October 20, as specified annually by the Director;

(e) Falconry. ~~and except that~~ Licensed falconers holding a valid hunting or sporting license and hunting with or by means of a falcon or other raptor may take ruffed grouse, pheasants, and bobwhite quail from the first Saturday after Columbus Day to March 15, all dates inclusive; provided, that said falconers shall abide by all other applicable provisions of M.G.L. c. 131 and 321 CMR seasons, bag limits, zoning restrictions, hunting hours, rules and regulations of the Division while pursuing game.

(f) Hunting Hours. The hunting hours on each calendar day of the open season shall begin at + hour before sunrise and end + hour after sunset except as provided in 321 CMR 3.01(1)(n). ~~“Rules and Regulations for Public Shooting Grounds and Wildlife Management Areas in Massachusetts.”~~

(g) Bag Limits. A person shall not kill or take more than the following bag limits:

1. two pheasants in one day, nor possess at any time more than four nor take more than six in one season;
2. three ruffed grouse in one day, nor possess at any time more than six nor take more than 15 in one season;
3. four bobwhite quail in one day, nor possess at any time more than eight nor take more than 20 in one season; provided,
4. except that for properly enrolled minors participating in the upland game bird training program as specified in 321 CMR 3.02(6)(d), the daily bag limit shall be one cock pheasant and/or two bobwhite quail.

~~(d) A person shall not have in his possession at any time more pheasants, ruffed grouse, or quail than he can legally take under 321 CMR 3.02(6).~~

Regulatory Authority: M.G.L. c. 131, § 5.